

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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R 060147Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PGOV

SUBJECT:WEEKLY STATUS REPORT -- THAILAND, INDONESIA,
MALAYSIA, BURMA AND SINGAPORE AFFAIRS

INDONESIA

PRE-MPR RESTRICTIONS EASED (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT ALL BUT
ABOUT 160 STUDENTS AND OTHERS DETAINED DURING THE MPR
PERIOD HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED. THOSE STILL IN DETENTION
WILL BE TRIED "SHORTLY". IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THE STUDENT
COUNCILS WILL BE REACTIVATED AND THAT POSSIBLY 90 OF THE
BANDUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE'S STUDENT BODY HAVE NOW REGIS-
TERED. ELEMENTS OF THE PRESS HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO TEST THE
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PARAMETERS OF THEIR RESTRICTIONS. IT THUS APPEARS THAT
THE GOI IS MOVING CAUTIOUSLY TO EASE THE PRE-MPR RESTRIC-
TIONS.

PL-480 SUPPLEMENTAL (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE JOINT STATE/AID/USDA MEMO AND ACCOMPANYING LETTER FROM

THE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT RECOMMENDING A PL-480
SUPPLEMENTAL FOR A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING INDONESIA

HAVE NOT YET BEEN SENT. THEY ARE BEING HELD PENDING CLARIFICATION THAT THERE MAY BE A PRESIDENTIAL BASIS TO THE OMB POSITION THAT ALL PL-480 ASSISTANCE MUST BE JUSTIFIED ON DEVELOPMENTAL GROUNDS. THE POSTS ON THE PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL LIST HAVE THUS BEEN REQUESTED TO PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE DEVELOPMENTAL LINKAGES.

SINGAPORE

PM LEE KUAN YEW VISIT TO HONG KONG AND TAIPEI (CONFIDENTIAL)

PM LEE FLEW TO HONG KONG ON APRIL 2 FOR A WEEK'S VISIT. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED, EMBASSY SINGAPORE UNDERSTANDS HE WILL VISIT TAIPEI FROM HONG KONG AS HAS BEEN HIS CUSTOM IN THE PAST. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF SINGAPOREAN PREPARATION FOR RECOGNITION OF THE PRC IN THE SHORT TERM HOWEVER INEVITABLE IT MAY SEEM IN THE FUTURE.

SINGAPOREAN TRADE OFFICE TO OPEN IN HANOI (SECRET)

WE HAVE RECEIVED A REPORT THAT THE SRV HAS INFORMED THE GOS IN LATE MARCH THAT IT HAS APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGAPOREAN TRADE OFFICE IN HANOI. THE GOS IS NOW
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SELECTING PERSONNEL TO STAFF THE OFFICE.

MALAYSIA

IBRD LOANS TO MALAYSIA (PALM OIL) (CONFIDENTIAL)

EMBASSY K.L. REPORTS THAT MALAYSIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS SEC. FOR TRADE JAAFAR RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE RECENT U.S. VOTE AGAINST THE IBRD LOAN FOR THE NORTHWEST SELANGOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BECAUSE OF ITS CONNECTION WITH PALM OIL PRODUCTION. JAAFAR EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROJECT WAS ESSENTIAL TO MALAYSIA'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AND WHILE HE STATED HE UNDERSTOOD THE U.S. POSITION, THE GOM IS CONCERNED, AND HOPES THAT THIS WILL NOT BECOME A TREND. DURING THE DISCUSSION IT BECAME CLEAR THAT JAAFAR DOES NOT THINK A GLUT OF EDIBLE OILS WILL OCCUR SINCE HE VIEWS THE RISE IN WORLD POPULATION AS SUFFICIENT TO CREATE INCREASED DEMAND FOR PALM OIL IN COMING YEARS.

BURMA

FMS PURCHASES (LOU)

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT A LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPT-
ANCE DATED MARCH 31 FOR APPROXIMATELY 88,000 ROUNDS OF

40 MM GRENADES HAS BEEN SIGNED BY THE BURMESE MILITARY
ATTACHE. THIS SHOULD PERMIT AIR SHIPMENT TO RANGOON
THIS MONTH. FOLLOWING UP ON OUR OTHER PENDING FMS CASE,
WE HAVE INVITED THE EMBASSY TO ATTEND A MEETING TOMORROW
WITH DOD TO DISCUSS 57 MM RECOILLESS RIFLES AND AMMUNITION.

BOMBS EXPLODE NEAR EMBASSY (LOU)

A SMALL NON-FRAGMENTARY BOMB EXPLODED ON A STREET CORNER
IN DOWNTOWN RANGOON SHORTLY AFTER ONE P.M. ON APRIL 3,
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RATTLING WINDOWS IN THE CHANCERY SOME THIRTY YARDS AWAY.
THIS FOLLOWED A SIMILAR BOMB WHICH EXPLODED IN THE PARK
ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE EMBASSY AT THREE P.M. ON
APRIL 2. NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED IN EITHER EXPLOSION.
THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT THERE IS NO INDICATION THE
BOMBS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST THE EMBASSY. NORMALLY SUCH
EXPLOSIONS ARE CREDITED TO THE EXILED PEOPLE'S PATRIOTIC
PARTY.

GENERAL

AAS CONVENTION (LOU)

A TIMBS OFFICER ATTENDED THE ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN
STUDIES MEETING IN CHICAGO FROM MARCH 30-APRIL 2. THE
ATMOSPHERE OF THE CONCLAVE WAS SUBDUED AND MOST SEMINARS
FOCUSED ON SCHOLARLY RESEARCH QUESTIONS. THE CONCURRENT
COMMITTEE OF CONCERNED ASIAN SCHOLARS WAS LIGHTLY
ATTENDED AND IN GENERAL POLITICAL ISSUES DID NOT BESTIR
THE CONVENTION. THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF THE YOUNGER
ACADEMICS APPEARS TO BE LANDING JOBS AND OBTAINING TENURE.
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